

51. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the detectable label comprises a fluorescent compound.

52. (Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the detectable label comprises an enzyme.

Please add the following new claims:

55. (New) A method for detecting cervical cancer in a human, the method comprising:

(a) contacting a tissue or body fluid sample from the human with a binding moiety that binds to a target nucleic acid indicative of cervical cancer, if present in the tissue or body fluid sample, to produce a complex comprising the binding moiety and the target nucleic acid, wherein the binding moiety is capable of binding specifically to a nucleic acid having a sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47 or a sequence complementary thereto; and

(b) detecting the complex, which if present in the sample is indicative of cervical cancer in the human.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the binding moiety comprises a nucleic acid.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the nucleic acid is from 8 to 100 nucleotides in length.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the nucleic acid is from 15 to 50 nucleotides in length.

59. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the binding moiety comprises a peptide nucleic acid.

60. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the binding moiety comprises a protein.

61. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the method comprises the additional step of performing a polymerase chain reaction to amplify the target nucleic acid.

62. (New) A method for detecting cervical cancer in a human, the method comprising:

detecting, in a tissue or body fluid sample from the human,

(i) a nucleic acid molecule that specifically binds a sequence complementary to SEQ ID NO: 47, or

(ii) a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to a sequence complementary to SEQ ID NO: 47 in a solution consisting of 50% formamide, 5X SSPE, 2X Denhardt's solution, and 0.1% SDS at 42°C,

wherein the nucleic acid molecule, if present in the sample, is indicative of the presence of cervical cancer in the human.

63. (New) The method of claim 62 wherein the nucleic acid comprises a ribonucleic acid molecule.

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Hunt for the telephonic interview of Monday, July 23, 2001. The substance of the telephonic interview is included in this paper. Applicants also thank Examiner Hunt for renumbering claims 28-43 as 39-54. Claims 24, 25, and 50-52 have been amended. Claims 39-49 and 53 have been canceled. New claims 55-63 have been introduced. Following entry of this paper, claims 24, 25, 50-52 and 54-63 will be pending in this application.

Applicants have amended the Specification and Sequence Listing to recite a nucleic acid having a sequence that encodes the protein IEF SSP 9502. More particularly, the Sequence Listing has been amended to include the nucleotide